

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A wheel supporting apparatus comprising:

an elastic member ~~(140, 150)~~ attached to a load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ provided in a wheel ~~(10, 20)~~ of a wheel unit ~~(100)~~ and placed to allow vibrations of said wheel unit ~~(100)~~ and vibrations of said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ to dampen each other;

a suspension arm ~~(210, 220)~~ having one end connected to said elastic member ~~(140, 150)~~ and the other end fixed to a vehicle body pivotably in a top-bottom direction of said vehicle body; and

a rotatably supporting member ~~(180)~~ connected to said suspension arm ~~(210, 220)~~ and said elastic member ~~(140, 150)~~ to rotatably support said wheel ~~(10, 20)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ is an in-wheel motor ~~(IWM)~~ including:

a motor ~~(70)~~ generating motive power;

a motor output shaft ~~(110)~~ connected to said wheel ~~(10, 20)~~ via a constant velocity joint ~~(30)~~ to allow the motive power generated by said motor ~~(70)~~ to be transmitted to said wheel ~~(10, 20)~~; and

a case ~~(60)~~ housing said motor, and

said elastic member ~~(140, 150)~~ is attached to said case ~~(60)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said motor output shaft ~~(110)~~ is comprised of:
a first output shaft ~~(110A)~~ connected to said motor; and
a second output shaft ~~(110B)~~ having one end fitted into said first output shaft ~~(110A)~~
and the other end connected to said constant velocity joint ~~(30)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein

said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ is a weight ~~(WG)~~ provided to said wheel ~~(10, 20)~~
without connected to said wheel ~~(10, 20)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to ~~any of claims~~
~~1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein

said suspension arm ~~(210, 220)~~ is comprised of an upper arm ~~(210)~~ and a lower arm
~~(220)~~, and

said elastic member ~~(140, 150)~~ is connected to at least one of said upper arm ~~(210)~~
and said lower arm ~~(220)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 5,
wherein

said elastic member is comprised of a pair of elastic members ~~(140, 150)~~,
one of said pair of elastic members ~~(140)~~ is connected to said upper arm ~~(210)~~, and
the other of said pair of elastic members ~~(150)~~ is connected to said lower arm ~~(220)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 6,
wherein

said pair of elastic members ~~(140, 150)~~ is connected to said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body, and

said upper arm ~~(210)~~ and said lower arm ~~(220)~~ are connected to said pair of elastic members ~~(140, 150)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body.

8. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 7, wherein

said pair of elastic members is comprised of:

a pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ connected to said upper arm ~~(210)~~ and said lower arm ~~(220)~~ and attached to said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body; and

a pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ connected to said upper arm ~~(210)~~ and said lower arm ~~(220)~~ and attached to said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body, and

said pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ and said pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ are placed in a front-rear direction of said vehicle body.

9. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

said pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ and said pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ are each a rubber mount.

10. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

said pair of elastic members further includes a pair of middle elastic members ~~(380, 390)~~ connected to said upper arm ~~(210)~~ and said lower arm ~~(220)~~ and attached to said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body, and

said pair of middle elastic members ~~(380, 390)~~ is made of a material different from a material of which said pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ and said pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ are made and is placed between said pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ and said pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ in the front-rear direction of said vehicle body.

11. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 10, wherein

said pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ and said pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ are each comprised of a rubber mount, and

said pair of middle elastic members ~~(380, 390)~~ is each comprised of a spring.

12. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 10, wherein

said pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ and said pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ are each comprised of a spring, and

said pair of middle elastic members ~~(380, 390)~~ is each comprised of a rubber mount.

13. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 5,
wherein

said elastic member is comprised of an upper elastic member-~~(340, 350)~~ and a lower elastic member-~~(360, 370)~~,

said upper elastic member-~~(340, 350)~~ is connected to said upper arm-~~(210)~~, and

said lower elastic member-~~(360, 370)~~ is connected to said lower arm-~~(220)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 13,
wherein

said upper elastic member-~~(340, 350)~~ and said lower elastic member-~~(360, 370)~~ are attached to said load member-~~(IWM, WG)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body,
and

said upper arm-~~(210)~~ and said lower arm-~~(220)~~ are connected respectively to said upper elastic member-~~(340, 350)~~ and said lower elastic member ~~(360, 370)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body.

15. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 14,
wherein

said upper elastic member-~~(340, 350)~~ and said lower elastic member ~~(360, 370)~~ are each comprised of at least one elastic body.

16. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 15,
wherein

said at least one elastic body-~~(340, 350, 360, 370)~~ is each a rubber mount.

17. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 14, wherein

said upper elastic member ~~(340, 350, 380)~~ and said lower elastic member ~~(360, 370, 390)~~ are each comprised of:

at least one first elastic body ~~(340, 350, 360, 370)~~; and

a second elastic body ~~(380, 390)~~ different from said first elastic body.

18. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 17, wherein

said at least one first elastic body ~~(340, 350, 360, 370)~~ is each a rubber mount, and said second elastic body ~~(380, 390)~~ is a spring.

19. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 17, wherein

said at least one first elastic body ~~(340, 350, 360, 370)~~ is each a spring, and said second elastic body ~~(380, 390)~~ is a rubber mount.

20. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

said elastic member is comprised of a pair of elastic members ~~(140A, 150A)~~,

said pair of elastic members ~~(140A, 150A)~~ is connected to said upper arm ~~(210)~~ via a pair of arm members ~~(260, 270)~~, and

said lower arm ~~(220)~~ is provided to said load member ~~(170M)~~ and said pair of elastic members ~~(140A, 150A)~~ without connected to said load member ~~(170M)~~ and said pair of elastic members ~~(140A, 150A)~~, said lower arm having one end connected to said rotatably

supporting member-(180) and the other end fixed to said vehicle body pivotably in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body.

21. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 20, wherein

said pair of elastic members-(140A, 150A) is attached to said load member (IWM, WG) in the front-rear direction of said vehicle body,

said pair of arm members-(260, 270) is connected to said pair of elastic members (140A, 150A) in the front-rear direction of said vehicle body,

said upper arm-(210) has one end connected to said rotatably supporting member (180) and said pair of arm members (260, 270) and the other end fixed to said vehicle body pivotably in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body, and

said upper arm-(210) and said lower arm-(220) are placed in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body.

22. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 20, wherein

said elastic members of said pair of elastic members-(280, 290, 300, 310) are placed on respective sides opposite to each other of said load member (IWM, WG) in a front-rear direction of said vehicle body and are able to expand and contract in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body.

23. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising an extension member-(320) fixed to said load member-(IWM, WG) and

extending from said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ in the front-rear direction of said vehicle body,
wherein

said pair of elastic members ~~(280, 290, 300, 310)~~ has one end connected to said
extension member ~~(320)~~ and the other end connected to said pair of arm members (260, 270).

24. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 22 ~~or~~
~~23~~, wherein

said pair of elastic members ~~(280, 290, 300, 310)~~ includes a pair of suspensions ~~(280,~~
~~290)~~.